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Soviet, Recounting Afghan Events, No Longer Ties Ex-Leader to C.I.A.

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MOSCOW, Jan. 14 — The allegation that the deposed Marxist President of Afghanistan was an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency appears to have been dropped by the Soviet press.

The accusation concerning President Hafizullah Amin, which had been ritualistically repeated with every mention of his name, was not included in Leonid I. Brezhnev's statement on Afghanistan on Saturday and was dropped today from a report in Pravda on the background of the Afghan situation. Mr. Amin was killed Dec. 27 as Soviet troops arrived to install Babrak Karmal as the new leader.

Western diplomats said the charge that Mr. Amin was a United States agent had been received incredulously around the world and this reaction may have embarrassed the Soviet leadership.

As late as Dec. 24, three days before the coup, Mr. Amin was quoted in Pravda as having paid tribute to the Soviet Union's

ists, after having seized power in April 1978, ran into difficulties in trying to put through reforms in an economically backward country "where medieval traditions and religion remain strong."

"To these difficulties were added the differences of opinion that sprang up within the leadership," Pravda said.

Summarizing the struggle that broke out between the Khalq faction of the People's Democratic Party, headed by Nour Mohammad Taraki, the first President after the Marxist takeover, and the more leftist Parcham wing, Pravda said the leftists were pushed out of the Government and often thrown into jail.

Taraki Now Reported 'Strangled'

According to this account, Mr. Amin, who was then a Deputy Prime Minister, carried out a coup in September and later had Mr. Taraki killed along with several members of his family. A Tass dispatch today from Kabul said an inquiry by the present regime had established that Mr. Taraki was "strangled" on Oct. 8 by three of Mr. Amin's henchmen. Tass said the three would soon stand trial.

It was first believed that Mr. Taraki had died of wounds a few days after a gunfight on Sept. 15, when a Soviet-backed attempt to get rid of Mr. Amin backfired. But the Kabul radio said Oct. 9 that Mr. Taraki, after having resigned, died "of a serious illness he had been suffering for some time."

According to the Pravda review, Mr. Amin, on seizing power, started a campaign of repression. The paper said:

"While manipulating socialist slogans, H. Amin in fact discredited the progressive cause, emasculated the revolutionary enthusiasm of the masses and surrounded himself with a clique of cruel men loyal to him personally."

Taking advantage of this situation, "imperialists" stepped up interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs by sending in diversionary groups from Pakistan and China, the paper continued.

"Playing on religious sentiment, these bands were able to get young people to follow them to special bases where new units were being formed," Pravda went on. "At the same time, in response to the repressions and glaring lawlessness, whole villages rose in revolt. One province after another was struck by a wave of criminality and terrorism."

"It appeared that the counterrevolution had taken the revolution by the throat. There was information that a general offensive against Kabul was set for the spring of this year. It was in this situation that the Amin regime was swept away on Dec. 27."

Pravda characterized the domestic program of the new Government as aimed at "strengthening and developing progressive social and political foundations" rather than proceeding at once to the "building of socialism." The latter



Associated Press

Hafizullah Amin

policy of "deep respect for our independence and our national sovereignty."

The next time his name appeared, in dispatches of the Soviet Government's press agency Tass quoting Kabul radio reports about his overthrow, he was described as an "agent of American imperialism" who had been executed for his crimes. A day or two later he was branded as a C.I.A. agent infiltrated into the Afghan revolutionary leadership. The charge that Mr. Amin had been an American agent was last repeated by his successor, President Karmal, at a news conference in Kabul on Friday.

Today's background article in Pravda, signed by two of the paper's reporters in Kabul, analyzed the Afghan situa-

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